



# City of Middletown Newsletter

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February 2013

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## Assessors Office

I would like all residents to be aware that the Assessor's office began accepting applications for the **Homeowners Credit Program** on February 1, 2013, and will continue until Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Under this program, a tax credit may be applied to the tax bill for the property in which the applicant resides. The amount of credit is up to \$1,250 for married couples and \$1,000.00 for unmarried persons. Credits are based on a graduated income scale. In order to receive this benefit:

1. By the end of the previous calendar year an applicant or their spouse must be 65 or older; or be 100% disabled (per social security); or be 50 or older and be a surviving spouse of a recipient.
2. Must reside as the owner (or have life use of property) as of October 1 of the year before applying.
3. Have a total income of LESS than **\$40,900** for married couples or **\$33,500** for single applicant.
4. He/she must file an application with the Assessor's Office Between February 1, and May 15. Proof of all income received in the previous calendar year (2012) including a SS-1099 must be provided. Following approval

of the initial application by the Assessor, the applicant must re-file biennially. In the period between filings, applicants must notify the Assessor of any significant change in their income.

In addition, property owners who qualify for this program may also qualify for the **Local Tax Freeze Program**. Income requirements are the same as the Homeowners Credit Program, additional requirements are:

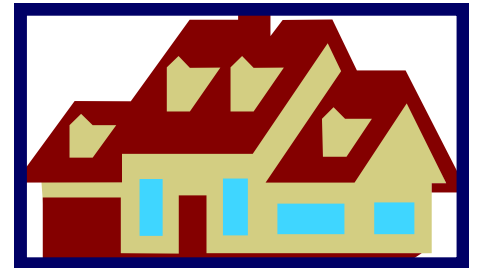
1. An applicant or their spouse must be **70** years of age or older by the end of the previous calendar year provided such spouse is domiciled with such person.
2. Such person shall have owned real property in the City for at least one (1) year prior to the start of receiving benefits, i.e. July 1, per G.S. § 12-129n and has paid real estate taxes on a residence to the City for a period of one (1) year per G.S. § 12-129n prior to his or her application for tax relief.
3. The taxpayer may have no more than \$125,000 in assets, excluding the residence for which relief is sought.
4. Each applicant shall sign an affidavit (City application) and IRS Form 4506, allowing the City to verify the prior two (2) years' tax returns, certifying that the information provided with respect to such applicants' total income in the home is true and accurate to the best of the knowledge of the applicant.

Applications may also be submitted for **Additional Veterans Benefits** for the 2013 Grand List. Applicants for this program must be eligible to receive a Veterans exemption and meet the same income limits for the Homeowners Credit Program; LESS than \$40,900 for married couples or \$33,500 for single applicant.

Applicants who are over income for the State Homeowners Credit Program may qualify for the **Local Tax Credit Program**. Applicants for this program must meet the same requirements as the State Homeowners Credit Program; however maximum income levels are

**\$45,900** for married couples or **\$38,500** for single applicant.

The application period for the **Elderly and Totally Disabled Renters Rebate Program** begins on April 1, 2013. Applicant's total income must not exceed **\$33,500** for a single person, **\$40,900** for a couple (joint income), including Social Security and Medicare. Applicants must bring all income, rent, and utility information from 2012.



## Revaluation Update

The City of Middletown has contracted with Vision Government Solutions to assist in the 2013 revaluation of property. Data Collectors/Listers are currently canvassing areas of the City gathering property and neighborhood information. Each property owner should receive a postcard in advance of visits to the property. If there is no one home at the time of their visit to the property they may proceed to gather exterior data, including measuring the buildings on the property. For this reason you might find an extra set of footprints in the snow around the property.

All employees carry photo identification and both they and their vehicles are registered with the Middletown Police Department. Property owners are encouraged to contact the Middletown Police at (860) 344-3200 to verify listers are working for the City. The data collection phase is expected to last into the summer.

Questions regarding the revaluation, the Homeowners Credit Program, the Renters Rebate Program, Additional Veterans Benefits, or Local Tax Credit/ Freeze Programs should be directed to the Assessor's office at 860 344-3454.

### **Central Communications**

The Central Communication Center processed over 24,000 emergency 911 calls and 114,000 non-emergency calls in 2012. In addition to telephone calls, over 48,000 calls for service were dispatched for Police, Fire and EMS in Middletown and Portland. In January over 2,000 911 calls were received as well as processing 8,800 non-emergency calls. This resulted in 4,100 Police, Fire and EMS responses.

### **MAT**

Construction of Middletown Area Transit's Maintenance and Storage Garage has been awarded to O&G Construction. The 19,000 square foot building located on North Main Street will have a geo-thermal heating and air conditioning system. It will also have an automated bus wash, and a waste oil heating system for the maintenance bay. Construction is scheduled to start in early March of this year. The anticipated completion date is May of 2014.

Reminder: Middletown Area Transit offers a Dial-A-Ride service for the elderly and handicapped unable to access our fixed route buses. This service is available Monday through Saturday. Call 860 347-3313 for more information.

### **Parks and Recreation**



Spring/Summer Brochure and Program applications are on-line at [www.cityofmiddletown.com](http://www.cityofmiddletown.com). Click on Departments.

3/23 10:00 a.m. Detroit Hunter & Ray Jacobs Easter Candy Hunt at Woodrow Wilson Middle School – FREE.

### **Police Department**

On February 15, 2013, Acting Captain Michael Timbro was sworn in as the Middletown Police Department's Deputy Chief. Deputy Chief Timbro has been with the Department since 1995 and risen through the ranks of the department. D.C. Timbro worked in the Patrol Division as an officer and supervisor. He also worked in the narcotics unit and was a member of our SWAT Team.



Officer William Maio and his K-9 Judge graduated from the Connecticut State Police K-9 Academy in January and are now working in the Patrol Division.

Since August we have hired four new officers, to bring the total of sworn officers at the Middletown Police Department to 110. The four officers hired were, Matthew Silvestrini, Daniel Spedding, Matthew Tiano and Jason Terribile. Spedding and Tiano are recruits in the Police Academy and are expected to graduate soon.

The Middletown Police Department has a new online tool available to the public. [www.RAIDSOnline.com](http://www.RAIDSOnline.com) is a website run by Bair Analytics, is available for free to the public. The website is updated daily with the calls for service from the previous day. Citizens can view a map and grid with the crimes in their area and sign up for neighborhood watch reports. The

map can be customized to search for type of call, area of the City the call came in and by date. Information on the website goes back to July of 2011.

### **Public Works**

City of Middletown Moves Towards Zero Waste

Last April at its Earth Day Ceremony, Middletown pledged to move towards zero waste. "Zero Waste" is a new way of looking at recycling. It considers recycling but goes beyond the traditional recycling methods. Instead of viewing materials as a waste in need of disposal, it recognizes waste materials as valuable resources and opportunities.

Middletown was chosen by EPA as one of fifteen communities nationwide to work with them on developing a zero waste program. EPA officials and the Middletown Resource Recycling Advisory Commission have developed a working Zero Waste Plan for Middletown.

As part of this Zero Waste initiative, the City is currently soliciting applications for its 2012 Green Business Recycling Hero Program. Last April the City honored several Middletown businesses and institutions for being models for recycling and sustainability in the City. This year, the City's Green Business Recycling Hero program is focusing on the City's colleges and hospitality sectors to promote the sustainability work each has done and honor those businesses and institutions that have made a strong commitment to protecting our environment.

Individual residents can participate as well. Residents can take the Zero Waste Pledge which is available on the City's website, [www.middletownct.gov](http://www.middletownct.gov) under the Public Works/Recycling Department area. The Recycling Commission will be counting every pledge with a compost bin thermometer in City Hall. Each pledge will represent less waste being disposed in Middletown. For more information on Zero Waste look on the City's website, [www.middletownct.gov](http://www.middletownct.gov) or call at 860-344-3526.

### Risk Manager

In a letter to Mayor Dan Drew, dated January 1, 2013, Bruce Wollschlager, CEO & President, and David Demchak, Sr. Vice President, of CIRMA, the City's liability insurance carrier, announced their selection of the City of Middletown as a 2013 CIRMA Risk Management Achievement Award Recipient. Their



letter to Mayor Drew on January 1, 2013, states *"With executive level commitment, the City's risk management and safety committee have worked in close partnership with CIRMA to ensure that risk management is an organization-wide focus. With the support of core operational departments, formal risk management policies and procedures are being implemented, on-site facility assessments are being conducted to identify potential exposures that could cause injuries, and city employees are regularly encouraged to participate in risk management training and education programs. The result of these initiatives is the development of a culture of risk management throughout the organization. For these ongoing efforts, CIRMA recognizes the City of Middletown in the category Establishing Risk Management as an Organizational Priority."*

### Russell Library's Job and Career Services

Russell Library is meeting an urgent need in Middletown by helping unemployed and underemployed adult and elderly residents build their job seeking skills or change careers. The program provides several services to help job seekers build

their job seeking and coping skills including: monthly workshop, weekly job group, computer and social media classes, career counseling, resume critique, and practice interviewing.

We also recognize the importance of social media. We offer classes in LinkedIn and provide professional portraits for job seekers to place on their LinkedIn page. A Job and Career Program Newsletter is sent out weekly and Facebook and Google groups are used to keep all informed.

On average the program serves over 1300 job seekers per year. All services are available at no cost. For additional information please call Russell Library at 860-347-2520.

Katie Rayhawk Volz, Career Consultant, presents to a full house as she takes participants behind the scenes to see what a recruiter truly considers during a candidate search. Katie was at Russell Library recently to present her workshop "How the Hiring Process Really Works".



Orville Pierson, author and job search expert, presents a workshop at Russell Library "The Highly Effective Job Search."

Jason Neely, Head of Information Services at Russell Library, provides portraits for job applicants. Every three months, the Hubbard Room in the Library is transformed into a portrait studio with a professional back drop and lighting equipment. The portrait service is offered free to job seekers so they can post their photo to the popular social media website LinkedIn.

### Senior Center

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|------|---|
| 2/27 | 12:30-2:30—Low Vision Clinic – Sponsored by Lions Club                              |
| 3/6  | 2:30—Sharon Hines provides an Educational Seminar on Lung Cancer                    |
| 3/13 | 3:00—Edwina Renganathan of Rushford Center – "Life is Short, Wear Your Party Pants" |
| 3/20 | 2:30—Sue Bibisi & Rodney Smith, CT President of AT&T – "Technology and Your Health" |